Act II

Scene 3

OUTSIDE STAGE DOOR, ARCH STREET THEATRE where JULIAN and ANDY prepare to leave the Theatre as COMPANY hurries on.

ANNIE
(Dashing on, music button and out when ANNIE reaches her position)
Mr. Marsh, wait a minute! You don't have to close the show!

JULIAN
What?

ANNIE
We've got someone right in the company who can replace Brock!

JULIAN
My dear Miss Reilly, if there were someone in the company with that much talent, don't you think I would have noticed her?

BERT
Maybe not in this case.

JULIAN
We're wasting our time.

MAGGIE
All you have to do is give her a chance! Isn't anything better than closing the show?

JULIAN
Who is she?

ANNIE
Peggy Sawyer!

MAN
That kid?

ANNIE
Yes, Peggy! She's got a voice that'll panic 'em and she can dance rings around Brock.

JULIAN
A raw beginner! This is her first job in the chorus!

ANDY
No wait, Boss. She <u>is</u> the best dancer in the line.

JULIAN
That's not carrying a show! Brock's such an easy performer she's fooled you. That sort of style takes years of experience to develop.

MAGGIE
Unless this kid's got it naturally.
(Each word quivering with passion)
Which she just might have!!

JULIAN
Do you know how many pages she'd have to learn? Not to mention the songs and routines.

BERT
She's young. Kids can do anything.

ANDY
You could put the dancing back in the show, Boss.

BERT
Julian, it's worth a try, isn't it?

JULIAN
All right, send her in.

BILLY
There's only one hitch, you just fired her.

ANNIE
But it may not be too late to get her back! She's taking the eleven-ten to Allentown.

/14B/ UNDERSCORE

ANNIE (Continued)
That gives you twenty minutes to get down to Broad Street Station.

ANDY
What do we do, Boss?

JULIAN
Get her off that train! I want Sawyer in New York, ready to work, at eight o'clock tomorrow morning.

ABNER
Ain't we gonna stay here in Philadelphia?

JULIAN
And lose ten thousand dollars a night? Our only chance is to ship the show to New York, beat the part into her in thirty-six hours, and open cold on Thursday. Now get going! No, wait a minute!
(MUSIC out)
This is my job. I fired her, it's up to me to get her back.

BERT

Julian, I can go....

JULIAN

I said I'll go! Thank you, Annie. You may have done me quite a favor.

ANNIE

(As HE exits)

Anytime, Mr. Marsh. Anytime!

MAGGIE

All right, we'll give him fifteen minutes to convince her, then we bring in the big guns!

/14C/ SCENE CHANGE

(MUSIC up as COMPANY exits Right and Left and we come up on....